

PRESIDENT'S CORNER — Nov. 1992

Dear fellow amateurs,

The PA QSO Party is over for another year. Those who participated I am sure enjoyed themselves and from what I hear, we had great club involvement this year. Be sure to bring your log sheets and dupe sheets to the next club meeting. Dick W3PIX will be there to collect the logs and answer any questions you might have. Remember every contact is a point for the club, so no matter how many contacts you made, submit your logs please. If you can't bring them to the meeting, pass them to a friend who can or contact Dick or myself and we will make arrangements to get them. The 1993 dues have been mailed and everyone should have received them. The board and officers thank you in advance for returning your 1993 dues

at your earliest convenience. A part of your dues goes towards the continuing monthly publication of the QUA-RAE and many other club activities.

The Christmas Party has been set for December 4th at the Waterfall Restaurant. Further details appear in this issue of the QUA-RAE. As a reminder there will NOT be a club meeting on December 3rd but the Christmas Party will serve as the meeting. We have a great program planned plus many prizes and awards. We hope all of you will be able to attend. For those of you who are concerned about driving in December, please contact me and we will make arrangements for you so you will not have to drive if the weather is inclement.

We are always looking for good

ideas for speakers at the club meetings. If anyone has any thoughts or ideas on topics for the club meetings, please give me a call. We are still looking for good articles for the QUA-RAE... come on guys and gals... send your articles to our editor Dan K3UFG. Let's make our newsletter one of the best in Pennsylvania!

Our next club meeting will be November 5, at the American Red Cross at 7:30 PM. Coffee and cookies at 7:00 PM as usual. The program topic will be "Rag Chewing" with lots of interesting topics to be discussed. We all love to Rag Chew, so looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

73
Tom McClain, N3HPR

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QUA RAE

W3GV

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE RADIO ASSOCIATION OF ERIE

Oct. 1992

The Radio Association of Erie is a non-profit club, dedicated to serving the tri-state area by providing emergency communication during a civil disaster, as well as providing communication support for public service events. The club meets at 7:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month at the Red Cross Chapter House, 4961 Pittsburgh Avenue. Membership is open to any person interested in amateur radio. For membership information, contact Bob Schwimmer, N3FAW at 866-3027. A Tri-State Emergency 2 meter net is conducted weekly on 146.61 Mhz Sundays at 6:30 PM; ARES net on 146.61 Mhz Sundays at 9:30 PM. RAE Novice/Tech Net meets each Wednesday on 28.330 Mhz at 9:30 PM. A 6-meter AM net meets each Wednesday night on 50.52 Mhz at 9 PM.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING of R.A.E.
7:30 PM on NOV. 5, 1992 at RED CROSS BLDG.
RAG CHEWING

Radio Association of Erie
Post Office Box 844
Erie, PA 16512

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

President Tom McClain, N3HPR 833-1640
Vice-President Tony Zona, WB3KGT 864-4545
Secretary Jerry Struhmeyer, KE3DB 825-2718
Treasurer Eric Zierenberg, N3HUM 474-2120

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Editor Dan Miller, K3UFG 459-6176

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NEEDED

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CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE TO ANY PAID MEMBER OF THE RAE. SUBMIT COPY TO DAN MILLER, 130 W. 21st St., 459-6176.



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Cash Bar - 6 p.m.

Sit-down Dinner - 7 p.m.

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Seafood Newburg
Tenderloin Tips

Return to:

Tony Zona, WB3KGT
2485 Dom Road
Waterford, Pa. 16441

Tom McClain, N3HPR
3954 Solar Drive
Erie, Pa. 16506

BORROWED FROM ELSEWHERE MORE ABOUT PROPAGATION

The following is excerpts from an article in the Northern Chautauqua Amateur Radio Club newsletter "Static Sheet." This article was written by KB2EOQ.

There are two main types of ionospheric disturbance, each having quite different characteristics. An IONOSPHERIC STORM and a SUDDEN IONOSPHERIC DISTURBANCE (SID). SID is also referred to as a shortwave fadeout (SWF). We might also hear references to two other "events" ... a STATWARM and a POLAR BLACKOUT. I have been trying to find out as much as I can about STRATWARMs and am still baffled, but the last material I reviewed suggested that stratwarms have no proven affect on HF signals, so I will leave the subject alone until someone proves otherwise.

A SUDDEN IONOSPHERIC STORM depends on the intensity of the solar flare from which it originates. Effects on HF communications range from none to a complete blackout. If you hear mention of a SID on the repeater or via the packet BBS, you can expect it to affect the lower parts of the HF bands (80 and 40 for example) first. If the higher bands are affected, they are usually affected somewhat less, and will recover first. Get the hint? If a SID occurs, 10 or 15 meters might be worth trying! Also, since a SID is the result of

solar radiation, Jacobs and Cohen point out that the dark side of the earth will not be affected. So, using the dark path, while longer, might be a way to establish some HF communication during a SID. Signal fadeout resulting from SID is not usually gradual, it happens in minutes!

A solar flare often produces IONOSPHERIC STORMS, they occur usually 18 to 36 hours after the flare. The SID produced by the same flare will have disappeared by the time the ionospheric storms arrive. Darkness and daylight areas of the earth are usually affected equally, so the dark path remedy used in SIDs won't work here folks! The storm is first noticed in the northern and southern extremes of the earth, and spreads into temperate zones as the storm increases. Signals that pass through the equatorial areas may get through, while anyone beaming his signal over the poles will probably be out of luck!

Use of lower frequencies is recommended during ionospheric storms. For those technical wizards out in NCARC land my references state that the highest signals which are reflected by the F layer will usually be 50% below normal during a storm. In addition, the E layer may also be affected in a similar manner.

POLAR CAP ABSORPTION (PCA) is confined to the polar regions and

affects signals that pass through that area. So if Jim WS2T is attempting to communicate from Dewittville, NY to Ulan Bator, Mongolia, he's not going to have much luck! Similarly, if Ed, KF2EN has intentions of talking to a missionary station in Thailand, he may have difficulty since the required path is near the polar areas. Just to confuse things a little, PCA are associated with both SID's and ionospheric storms. PCA's caused by SIDs last from a few minutes to a few hours; those associated with ionospheric storms can last for days!!!

Hey Aurora fans ... wake up!! PCA's are usually associated with strong auroral displays, especially ionospheric storms related to PCA's!!!



Volunteer Examiners Report

by Norma Vanderhoff, W3CG, ARRL VE Liaison

Fifteen people tested at the October test session, taking a total of 27 exams. The following gained a complete upgrade: Frank Cutshaw of Corry to Technician; Timothy Griffith of Edinboro to Technician; James Janka of Erie to Technician; Andrew Price KA7ZSW of Erie to General; Bryan Rawa of Erie to Technician w/HF; Ambur Soboleski of McKean to Technician; William Townsend KA3ZSC of Meadville to General; Scott Undercoffer of Erie to Technician w/HF; and Robert Jacobs of Union City to Novice. Among those who gained a partial upgrade, was RAE member Tom Peotrowski N3BWV, who has only one more exam to take for Amateur Extra.

except for handicapped needing special help.

Bring ID (drivers license is fine), any current Certificate of Completion, and a copy of any current license. Purpose of the Certificate is to credit you with exams previously taken, and this will be returned to you immediately. The license copy must accompany your 610 form and exam papers. Please remember that the license copy is necessary for exams to be processed. Cost of exams is \$5.40 except the Novice, which is free.

As of now, new license arrival time is 8 weeks.

Form 610's are available at the test site. Those needing a form for license renewal, change of address, etc., may get them from the VE Team. The VE Team is Henry Schultz W13U; Dick Waldringer N13Q; Dick Blasco KY3D; Bert Van Houten W3TPW; Steve Nehez NX3I; Jim Adams WT3Q; Ray Keskinen W8HVK and myself, Norma Vanderhoff, W3CG.



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CQ DX ... HEARD ON THE HF BANDS

[The following is reprinted from Ashtabula County Amateur Radio Club newsletter of October 1992]

ANGOLA. D2EPV finds a clear spot between 21.280 and 21.305 MHz for his daily DXing between 2000 and 2200 UTC. He was reported to have been on 14.228 MHz at 1935 UTC. QSL Edmund to Box 5336, Luanda, Angola.

BAHAMAS. Now thru 31 Oct. celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus, members of the Bahamas ARC are appending their call signs with /500 on all bands and modes. On Columbus Day, October 12th, special call C6A500 will be signed from San Salvador Island (where the landing was made). Throughout this month, on a non-overlapping basis, a club-member on each of the islands has been assigned a sked to use the C6A500 call sign. For a Commemorative Award, send your QSLs, s.a.s.e. and greenstamps via C6ARS.

CORSICA. TK5BF, last reported on 21.233 MHz at 1620 UTC, is often near 14.230 MHz at about that same time. QSL Jacques to his CBA.

CROATIA. 9A2TW (ex-YU2TW), with a potent cw signal on or near 1831.5 KHz on weekends from about 0001 to 0500 UTC, makes it easy to add this upcoming new DXCC-counter. QSL Edo to his YU2TW CBA.

MAURITANIA. 5T5CJ is regularly near 18.150 MHz from 1700 UTC. QSL via W4BAA.

MICRONESIA. V63JC is regularly on or near 3795 KHz most weekdays from about 1000 UTC with an outstanding signal. QSL Fr. Cavanagh to his CBA.

NEW CALEDONIA. FK8CP "lives" near 1838 KHz daily from about 1000 UTC. He alternates between cw and ssb — and will immediately provide you with a contact on either mode. QSL Remi to his CBA.

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA. ZS4PB opens with ssb near 1838 KHz at about 0400 UTC. About an hour thereafter, he QSY's to comply with requested skeds on 40 and 75 meters. QSL Peter to his '92 CBA.

SENEGAL. Now to 31 Oct. Prefixing their call signs with 6W6/, WB2P and K3IPK plan cw and ssb on 10-160, including the WARC bands. QSL 6W6/K3IPK to his home CBA but QSL 6W6/WB2P to his new QTH: 156 Windsor Rd., Fishkill, NY 12524. They will be signing 6V6U in the CQ WW SSB Contest on 24-25 October.

TONGA. A35VG moves quickly through his daily pileups near 14.195 MHz from about 0400 UTC, making later and next day skeds on other bands. QSL Steve via P29AA.

TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS. 9 thru 12 Oct. commemorating the 500th Anniversary of Columbus' landfall there, members of the Turks & Caicos ARC will sign VP500CC. They plan cw, ssb and RTTY on most bands. For a Commemorative Certificate, QSL with a 9" x 12" envelope and a green-stamp via W3HNK ... 20 to 27 Oct. Prefixing their home calls with VP5/, a team comprising WB2R, N2VW and WB2YOF will run cw and ssb (in 24 hour operations) on the typical DX frequencies of most bands. QSL to their respective home addresses. They will sign VP5O as an entry in the CQ WW SSB Contest on 24-25 October. QSL VP5O via N2VW.

WILLIS ISLAND. Momentarily, for one week. VK9NL, NK9NS and VK2BEX (with VK0 prefixes), plan to be on as many bands as possible with cw and ssb. QSL with a donation to help cover the cost of this awaited DXpedition to: HIXA c/o VK9NS.

WPA LEADERSHIP OFFICIALS

The following is reprinted from ARRL WPA BULLETIN of September 1992.

Section Manager Bernard E. Fuller, N3EFN (814) 763-1529	Asst Section Manager (Pkt) & Bulletin Manager Chuck Gessner, KC3ET (412) 466-0157	Official Observer Coordinator John Bross, K3QMR (412) 962-5461
Asst Section Manager Bob Hudson, KA3OEM (814) 336-2682	Section Traffic Manager Ted Vasilow, WN3F (412) 864-5841	Affiliated Club Coordinator Stewart Saylor, AK3J (412) 276-3922
Asst Section Manager (East) Jerry Cox, NR3T (814) 696-4047	Section Emergency Coordinator Bryan Simanic, WA3UFN (814) 371-3836	Technical Coordinator Tim Duffy, K3LR (412) 347-2698

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SECTION STATISTICS

Licensed Amateurs — 7200
ARRL Members — 2229
Number of Affiliated Clubs — 43
Pending Affiliation — 2
Club Membership — 2834
Largest Club Membership — 214
Smallest Club Membership — 6

WPA Section includes 33 counties within its boundaries, and has an area of 34,400 square miles. Major population centers exist at Pittsburgh and Erie — the 2nd and 3rd largest cities in the Commonwealth.

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